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GBHHC to open headquarters in metropolis

• Ethiopia resolute to Sudan's peace

BY BETELHEM BEDLU

ADDIS ABABA - Cognizant of Ethiopia's special place in the black world, the Global Black Heritage History and Education

See GBHHC to ... page 3

Industrial dev't not luxury for Africa:

President Sahlework

• African Economic Conference 2023 underway



BY BILAL DERSO

ADDIS ABABA - It is increasingly evident that industrial development is not a luxury but an essential component for sustained and inclusive economic growth in Africa, President Sahlework Zewde said, making strong appeal to the continent's industrialization agenda.

The President's remark came on yesterday while she addressed the 2023 African Economic Conference (AEC), jointly organized by the African Development Bank (AfDB), the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP).

President Sahlework also urged her fellow African leaders and captains of industry to closely collaborate to adopt a more efficient strategy towards achieving import substitution while promoting intra-African trade.

According to UNDP Regional Bureau for Africa Director Matthias Naab, now is the time to invest in Africa's value addition and investing in its abundant raw materials and commodities that have transformed the economies of several advanced economies. "Africa must ensure that this value addition is also based on the regional value chain approach."

He also said, "UNDP is supporting African

See Industrial dev't ... page 3

Association's export earnings hit over 117mln USD in quarter

• To hold 12th Int'l Pulses, Oil seeds Conference

BY MISGANAW ASANKE

ADDIS ABABA - Ethiopia secured about 117, 769,610 million USD exporting of 128,638 tons of oil seeds and pulses over the last three months, Ethiopian Pulses, Oil seeds and Spices Processors Exporters Association(EPOSPEA) said.

Briefing the media yesterday, EPOSPEA President SisayAsmare said that the nation secured about 117, 769,610 million USD and performed 79 and 147 percent respectively over the last three months.

See Association's export ... page 3

Cornerstone laid to build GBV survivor's center here

BY ESSEYE MENGISTE

ADDIS ABABA - The construction of a Japanese-funded center for victims of gender-based violence (GBV) launched in Kaliti neighborhood of Addis Ababa, which would enable 100 women and children to stay in a proper environment.

It was learned in the inauguration that the Association for Women's Sanctuary and Development (AWSAD), a local organization, is tasked to manage the shelter that is believed to contribute to enhancing the social independence of violence survivors.

Speaking at the occasion, Japanese Ambassador to Ethiopia Ito Takako stated that her government donated approximately 145,000 USD (Equivalent to 7.9 million Birr

See Cornerstone laid ... page 3



Firm gaining commercial momentum in half year

• *Garners over 4.1 million customers*

BY ASHENAFI ANIMUT

ADDIS ABABA - Safaricom Ethiopia announced that it has attained a strong commercial momentum over the last six months.

Briefing the media yesterday, the newly appointed CEO of Safaricom Ethiopia Wim Vanhelleputte said that the firm is working to deploy innovative and digital transaction services to come up with cashless society via digital solutions.

Setting the commercial strategy, the CEO remarked that the company is exerting its utmost effort to deliver fast, high quality and reliable internet services.

The CEO said: "Safaricom Ethiopia's half year performance achievement is the manifestation of its firm commitment reinforcing a solid commercial momentum thereby achieving major milestones in both mobile (GSM) and M-PESA services."

It was also indicated that the firm has managed to expand its vibrant network



and services accessibility to 26 large and medium cities and 254 small cities and towns covering 35% of the population.

Currently, some 2,057 network sites have been built in a bid to offer efficient telecom services across the country.

With a 600 million USD investment for building networks and infrastructures, the company has planned to reach 7,000 sites to benefit 85% of the population from Safaricom services in the coming two years.

As of 30 September 2023, over 4.1 million customers have subscribed to our GSM Services with our fast data becoming popular for its speed and reliability accounting to 43GB usage per subscriber, he mentioned.

"Receiving the license for mobile financial service, the company has registered 1.2 million customers. It has also planned to install about 10,000 to 12,000 network towers in the coming ten years to enable customers to assess and accelerate new growth areas; increase productivity through digitization and realizing Ethiopia's digital transformation journey," Wim said.

Safaricom Telecommunication Ethiopia PLC is a purpose-led technology and communications company committed to contributing to Ethiopia's digital transformation and inclusion agenda, it was learnt.

Ministry graduates 4,079 taxpayers



Aynalem Nigussie

BY MESERET BEHAILU

ADDIS ABABA - The Ministry of Revenue (MoR) yesterday graduated some 4,079 trained tax payers following a 90 hour exercise on Direct Taxes, Indirect Taxes and Tax Administration arenas.

During the course of the graduation ceremony, Revenue Minister Aynalem Nigussie said that graduates have taken important lessons regarding direct tax, indirect tax, and tax administration for 90 hours dealing with some 13 modules during their stay.

As to her, the ministry has been providing various parts of taxpayers with similar training so as to utilize the resource wisely. For instance, in Mekele, Tigray state, training is being offered for tax payers in order to make them well aware of tax value. Particularly, the ministry is striving for creating awareness among citizens through online and related media. In this regard, education is crucial for taxpayers to have a positive attitude towards taxes and related matters.

"Similarly, the more the tax payers' awareness raised, the lesser the cost the country incur for our law enforcement," she noted.

She further stated that ministry has attached due emphasis to improving tax moral and bringing behavioral change on tax as it is the matter of life. She called up on stakeholders to fight against illegal bodies who do not obey the responsibility of paying tax.

Revenue Tax Affairs Director Befirdu Meseret on his part said that from the total amount of 4,079 tax payers graduated, some 2,228 are women. Similarly, some 1,125 taxpayers have drawn lessons from the training. Compared with the past similar period, the number of tax payer graduates this year has surpassed those of the same period last year by 2,638 taxpayers.

As to him, the ministry has been striving for improving revenue, capacity building training for tax payers, preparing document, and the likes with a view to facilitating the tax system.



Yango launches ride-hailing services in Ethiopia

BY TSEGAYE TILAHUN

ADDIS ABABA - Yango has officially launched a world-class digital ride-hailing service in Ethiopia.

Yango, a digital ride hailing services for ride ordering online officially launched in Ethiopia yesterday.

Addressing a keynote remark, Yango Country Manager Yekenalem Abebe (PhD) said that today Yango officially introduced a digital ride hailing service in Ethiopia in collaboration with ShuuFare to offer affordable rides and quality services including drivers' and customers' safety.

"Our service will not just meet, but exceed the expectations of our customers, thereby transforming their transportation experience."

The company is dedicated to delivering a cutting-edge, reliable, and customer-centric ride-hailing service. Its service operation in the country would bring efficient mobility solutions. It is already operational in numerous countries across Europe, Central Asia, South America, the Middle East, and Africa, he said.

It uses a variety of shared mobility services based on a unique mapping, targeting, routing and navigation system as well as command distribution based on machine learning technologies. It doesn't operate its own cars or drivers, but it works only with local

transportation service providers by selecting drivers in accordance with local legislation.

"All of our services and brands arise from the everyday needs of citizens and rely on high-end technologies to provide affordable, comfort and safety services. It enables users to order up to three rides at a time for you, your loved one and a friend."

The drivers' income has also seen a net difference. The app allows users to rate each trip and send suggestions or complaints to the support service, which is available 24/7, he noted.

For his part, Technology and Innovation State Minister Yisherun Alemayehu stated that the launching of the operation of the services transforms the way we move, but it also symbolizes the strides the country has been making in universal technology to enhance everyday life.

The country's transportation industry has been seeking innovative, secured and efficient mobility solutions. In the digital era, some services are not just about mobility of people from somewhere, but are implementing the nation's progression towards digital transformation to benefit the lives of citizens, he said.

Empowering drivers, providing citizens riders with safe, affordable and confident transportation as well as contributing economic growth of the country are commendable efforts that Yango brings, he added.

Ministry says over 370 industries return to operation

BY YESUF ENDRIS

ADAMA - Ministry of Industry announced that over 370 industries have returned to their operation since government launched 'Let Ethiopia Produce' campaign.

Discussing a number of issues with staff members, Industry State Minister, Hassan Mohammed said that the campaign 'Let Ethiopia Produce' is being carried out via exerting coordinated efforts.

A national steering committee clustered under six categories is leading and supervising the campaign, he noted.

Executive members from different institutions

are involving in the movement, he indicated.

Over the quarter a year period, production capacity of industries has registered 55.79 per cent from 46 per cent. The export revenue also has hit 35 per cent growth compared to the same period last year, he said.

He also said that the ministry is employing further efforts of making all industries fully operational.

The 10 year strategic plan, which has already been installed also allow different sectors to consider future opportunities of development. Programmes and projects which entered into operation are also progressing well, he indicated.

The Ethiopia produces and the 10 year strategic plan are highly anticipated to catalyse the manufacturing, leather and leather products, import substitution, according to the state minister.

Since Ethiopia has a plan of shifting its economy to industrial-led, the industrial sector, especially the manufacturing one needs more developments. So, the on-going progresses are a part of government's plan.

In his latest briefing to members of the House of Peoples Representatives, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed also said that the government will continue strengthening the manufacturing sector thereby coming up with a remarkable change along that line.

GBHHC to...

Centre (GBHHC) decided to set up its headquarters in Addis Ababa, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) disclosed.

At a biweekly press briefing he held yesterday, MoFA Spokesperson Meles Alem (Amb.) stated that the center's decision is the result of strong efforts by the diplomatic community including the Ministry. "The decision is a significant "diplomatic achievement."

According to him, the decision takes Ethiopia's noble place in Pan-African movements into account and values the country's unmatched contribution to the establishment of continental and international organizations including the AU and UN. The country's ancient civilization is also being considered by the center.

Besides the diplomatic sphere, the center would bring about socioeconomic benefits for the country. Specifically, the digital museum, which is planned to be inaugurated, would play a vital role in enhancing conference tourism as well as boosting tourist flow, Meles added.

It is to be recalled that GBHHC's delegation paid a 10-day working visit to Ethiopia last April and met with high-level government officials.

The spokesperson also said Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) affirmed Ethiopia's commitment to the peace and stability of the brotherly people of Sudan during his recent encounter with Chairman of the Transitional Sovereignty Council of Sudan, Abdel Fattah al-Burhan.

Similarly, the discussions between Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, Demeke Mekonnen, and the World Bank's Regional Director, Ousmane Dione, as well as Tanzania's Foreign Minister, January Makamba helped Ethiopia advance its interests.

Ambassador Meles further indicated over 20 France private companies led by France Business Confederation will carry out a pre-investment visit to Ethiopia in the coming week from Nov 21-23, 2023. "The general objective of Ethiopia's diplomacy is creating more jobs, attracting investment, enhancing technology-knowledge transfer, creating market linkage, among others," he remarked.

Cornerstone laid to build GBV...

through Japan's Grant Assistance for Grassroots and Human Security Project (GGP) for the center. The project consisted of one dormitory building and one kitchen building for GBV victims.

Upon completion, the AWSAD center would not only have dormitories for violence survivors, but also a training facility, day care center and other related services.

"We have learned that the number of GBV survivors who want to live in this safe house continues to increase, and the current AWSAD facilities cannot take all those who are in need of its help."

The ambassador added, "We are also convinced that there is an urgent need to construct a new

shelter, which can accommodate more GBV survivors and believe that this project will help them to start a new life in the future."

This project would further deepen the friendship between the people of Ethiopia and Japan and AWSAD would complete the center as swiftly as possible so that those who need help could start a new life in a new shelter soon, she remarked.

AWSAD Executive Director Maria Munir said for her part that the association has been providing support to violence survivors in Addis Ababa, Adama, Hawassa, and Dessie. Emergency support has also been rendered to war affected areas where gender based violence rehabilitation remains a burning

issue.

"While the capacity of the safe house is only 50, at present 100 women and girls are receiving service at the center," she noted, adding that the Japanese government has made exemplary support to the disadvantaged segment of the society.

Women and Social Affairs State Minister Alemuti Umut mentioned her ministry's close collaboration with AWSAD to provide the critical services that are part of women's human rights.

The project grant contract was signed between the Embassy of Japan and the AWSAD on September 28, 2023, it was learned.

Association's export...

Ethiopia plans to hold 12th International Conference on Pulses, Oil seeds and Spices under the theme: "Ethiopia, Sustainable Source for Your Agro-Commodity Demand" from November 21-22, 2023 in Addis Ababa at Skylight Hotel.

He further noted that the conference will also create conducive environment for the country's tourism industry to revive, widen investment opportunities and help expand the sector using sideline events of the conference.

He added high-level government officials, diplomats, commercial attaché, among others, are also expected to participate in the conference.

He said: "The conference is expected to contribute a lot to the effort geared towards

increasing export destination for Ethiopian pulses, oil seeds and spices in Middle East, Africa and European nations in the years to come."

He underlined that Ethiopia's joining of BRICS also helps the country get better opportunity to create additional market destination and strength trade and regional integration of African nations especially with Nigeria, Tanzania and Burkina Faso exporting the aforesaid agriculture products.

As to him, the conference will be attended by about 400 Ethiopian exporters, suppliers of agriculture machinery and about 100 international buyers from China, Belgium, Egypt, India, Israel, Japan, Pakistan, UK, Nigeria, Burkina Faso, Tanzania and Saudi Arabia will participate and exchange

respective experiences.

The conference will be collaboratively held by Ministry of Trade and Regional Integration.

EPOSPEA Vice President Edao Abdi on his part said Ethiopia has to use its BRICS joining opportunity that would potentially create additional foreign currency out of export.

He added the association comprises 400 exporters, and is working to promote the sector to help the nation secure foreign currency.

He said: "The potential challenges facing the sector this year include transportation cost, contraband trade and other related aspects."

The nation exported about 524,466 metric tons of oil seeds and pulses and earned 563 million USD a year before, he said.

Industrial dev't not luxury...

countries and working with governments to develop and implement policies for structural economic transformation. Regarding intra-African trade, we are invested - working with sister agencies and identify trade, investment and industry - as critical levers for economic growth and sustainable development."

Speaking at the opening of the conference, Industry Minister Melaku Alebel mentioned the urgent need for Africa to rapidly diversify its economies and add value to everything that it produces. "We aim to raise

Africa's manufacturing GDP contribution significantly, a leap that would accelerate our progress towards both the Sustainable Development Goals and Agenda 2063's targets."

The minister further stated that Ethiopia exemplifies this ambition with notable economic resilience and growth, underpinned by the Homegrown Economic Reform and a 10-year development plan. "This aims to elevate Ethiopia into a middle-income country by 2025, focusing on key sectors like agriculture, manufacturing,

mining, tourism, and ICT."

Melaku said, "We are committed to enhance our manufacturing sector's productivity. Our focus is on addressing challenges like input supply chains, financial access, and infrastructure development. Our industrial parks are attracting foreign investment and they are pivotal to this mission."

Africa remains the least industrialized continent, with a less endowed production capacity accounting for only 2.1 percent of global manufacturing. An almost non-existent trade among African countries,

resulting in a less-desired economic performance, experts say, further complicates this situation.

This year's AEC is being held under the theme: "Imperatives for sustainable industrial development in Africa" for three days until tomorrow.

Since its inception in 2006, the AEC series has fostered research, expert and policy dialogue, and knowledge sharing on a wide range of issues and challenges facing Africa.

Opinion

Government's unwavering commitment to enhance peace through dialogue

BY DANIEL ALEMAYEHU

The issue of peace and security could not be left as a back burner for any nation as no step is taken without the presence of peace and security. That is the major reason why every nation works on establishing a system that creates and protects lasting peace. By any means, the two pillars of a government's responsibilities (peace and security) must be met for a better future.

As history tells, the earth has been encountered with numerous challenges that directly affect the overall existence of its inhabitants. The first and second world wars, that caused unforeseen losses of millions lives of and the destruction of properties worth billions of dollars, might help as textbook examples to the experience that nations faced to defend the peace and security of their states. On the other hand, any nation might find itself at war even within the state. In order to curb the challenges, the parties engaged in any conflict might come up with ideas that could serve peace and benefit both sides.

In the present climate, as the world is passing through economic, social, and political crises, every country in the world is busy finding a way out to the current and upcoming crisis. What has been witnessed in Ethiopia is the same.

It is the fact that Ethiopia, one of the top populous nations in Africa, has been facing conflicts and extremely polar thoughts that push and pull the nation to different directions. Such evil deeds exacerbate the reason why the nation is encountering with peace and security threats time and again.

In the past few years, the road to peace and stability has been rough for the government and people of Ethiopia for various reasons. The government has always expressed its commitment to resolve any disagreement through discussion, and it has shown in practice like what is done in Pretoria, South Africa, when coming to peace agreement with TPLF.

In the past few years, Ethiopia has engaged in an active war in its northern part with the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) for two years. The conflict had the power of grabbing attention of many prominent nations and international organizations across the globe. Besides, the country has been busy with the challenges regarding internally displaced citizens due to the unrest in the country and migrants from the neighboring countries. In addition, the country has been struggling with divisive narrations and extremist thoughts that have made the road to peace and stability bumpy for both the government and the people of Ethiopia.

The current incumbent, however, has not hesitated to call the other parties to come to the round table for discussion and find



a solution for any inconveniences. The commitment and unwavering stand to bring back the nation's peace made the Ethiopian Government and the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) take a seat for discussion. Accordingly, the parties have reached on an agreement to Permanent Cessation of Hostilities (CoH) in Pretoria, South Africa a year ago.

The agreement in Pretoria has brought relatively tangible peace in the conflict affected areas as a result of the incumbent's tireless work to support the region to stand by its own feet and resume the people's daily life to regular. Though there are unaddressed issues waiting for more effort, the government is still committed to meet those conditions stated in the agreement. It has taken actions to normalize the situation in the north and strived to be the part of the solution.

Resolving one issue and going to the other, the government is still working on ensuring the peace and stability of the nation as there are still conflicts here and there. The government has shown willingness in a number of scenarios that it is open to discuss the differences that caused dispute and ready to negotiate. The incumbent also has taken actions so as to silence the gun roaring in different parts of the country. For the insecurity and instability in the nation, the government has not caused those conflicts rather it always wanted to bring peace through discussion.

Similarly, the government has been working on pushing those actors who are involved in conflicts in the country to come up with their ideas around the table and discuss so that it will bring peace. A good text book example might be the recent effort from the government side to sit for a peace agreement with the combatant faction called Shene in the Oromia Region for the second time to discuss differences though not officially disclosed. To this end, the government has shown wholehearted interest in both occasions and attended the dialogue by its high level officials with the representatives

of the armed group in Tanzania's Semi-autonomous island of Zanzibar and Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, to find a common ground.

By the same token, the government still shows its unwavering stand to bring peace so that it calls every part of the nation to participate in the National Dialogue to create holistic nationalism. According to Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, there are no ground reasons for the scenario that helped Oromo Federalist Congress (OFC) prefers peaceful struggle on behalf of Oromo people's interest doesn't work for Shene and the armed groups in Amhara region. Realizing the idea, the government has established a neutral commission to facilitate the long-awaited and long-anticipated national dialogue to bring national consensus.

In a number of occasions, the government has shown keen interest for the national dialogue. It also believes that any dispute can be resolved through bringing the issue to the table. The incumbent also fosters any kind of peaceful negotiations with anybody to ensure peace and security of the country. In the days to come, the government is committed to show its stand on peaceful discussions in order to reach on the sought peace. The nation is always ready to work with any foreign nations or international organizations that wish to help the people to live in peace.

Recently, the 4th regular session of the House of People's Representatives (HPR) was held in the presence of Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) seeking answers and explanations for the questions they raised on the government plans and current issues of the nation.

While addressing the questions, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed stressed on the importance of bringing national issue to the table saying all should support the Ethiopian National Dialogue Commission for the benefits of the citizens and the country. The premier said that the commission has been working with great diligence. The cause of the unhurried pace of the dialogue process is the intention of making it credible and

inclusive.

Abiy stressed; "We have to help the commission in every way we can. Everyone should help them for its own benefit." According to him, a missed opportunity is regrettable. Therefore, we must use this opportunity given to us by the National Dialogue Commission in an appropriate manner.

He recalled that the House of People's Representatives approved the establishment of the Ethiopian National Dialogue Commission on the 29th December, 2021. The bill setting up the commission states that the commission is meant to "pave the way for national consensus and keep the integrity of the country."

There are different opinions and disagreements among various groups and segments of society in Ethiopia on the most fundamental national issues. It is, therefore, necessary to alleviate and resolve the differences and disagreements that engenders national consensus through a broad-based inclusive public dialogue.

Conducting inclusive national dialogues is important to bolster national consensus and along the way a culture of trust and of working together on critical national issues.

Similarly, the main and aggravating problem of Ethiopia is a divisive narration, according to the Prime Minister. He stressed that the divisive narration in the country is destructive for the existed norm of its peoples. Instead, a grand narration brings the peoples together is essential, he stated.

"The way we look at our problems should not be driven by emotion and conspiracy. We have to come to a solution through common understanding. Ethiopia is the outcome of its citizens. Together we can live and prosper," the premier underlined.

Editor's Note: The views entertained in this article do not necessarily reflect the stance of The Ethiopian Herald

Editorial

Impressive move in aviation industry!

The Ethiopian Airlines has fast become a wonder and source of pride not only for Ethiopians but also for Africans. America has Ford; China owns TikTok, South Koreans built Samsung tech, and Ethiopian Airlines is the zenith of Ethiopia's prowess and success.

The Africa's biggest aviation company has been growing steadily for decades competing with high-tech and financially fit airliners across the world. The airlines is not only profiting but also promoting Ethiopia carrying its tri-colored flag to the nook and cranny of the globe with its modern fleets. Impeccable is what best describes the services of the carrier.

The airliner is no hard sell for passengers of all nationalities owing to its dependable services offered by the airlines' eager beaver employees too. Deeping its toe in other African airlines' share, the reputable airlines are a cash cow for the Ethiopian government and a pride for the Ethiopian people. It is for this very reason that the carrier is always the household name of Ethiopian leaders.

Moreover, the airliner has also been one of the leading airliners and continues to leave an indelible mark and set the bar high in the aviation industry. The airliner even stayed afloat even during aviation's turbulent times like the COVID-19 outbreak, earning a reputation for its reliable and decedent airlines services. Ethiopia's leading multinational company is growing in terms of fleet and destination diversity crisscrossing the world with daily flights and connecting the continent with the rest of the globe. The flag carrier and brand ambassador also maintain an upward trajectory in terms of profits.

Over the years, the Star Alliance member won various accolades in the aviation industry including Skytrax's 'Best Airline in Africa Award' for six consecutive years and 'Best Cargo Airline-Africa' at the Maiden Arabian Cargo Awards in its Cargo and Logistics Services.

According to figures, the airlines transported over 13 million passengers across more than 120 international destinations in the 2022-23 fiscal year alone.

The carrier is spreading its wings to the world adding new destinations to its flight menus on a regular basis. In an effort to expand its services, lately, the Airlines announced that it has agreed to order 11 787 Dreamliner and 20 737 MAX airplanes with an opportunity for 15 and 21 additional jets, respectively. The agreement, signed by Ethiopia's national carrier at the Dubai Airshow, represents the largest-ever purchase of Boeing airplanes in African history.

"We are pleased to announce that Ethiopian Airlines has reached a deal with Boeing to place a firm order for 31 ultra-modern airplanes, with the opportunity for 36 additional jets," said Ethiopian Airlines Group CEO Mesfin Tasew. "This order will enable us to modernize and increase our fleet in support of Ethiopian Airlines' growth plan and our Vision 2035 Strategy. Through this deal, we have solidified our decades-old exemplary business partnership with Boeing."

"Ethiopian was the first African airline to take delivery of the 787, and the Dreamliner family continues to play an integral role in its long-haul fleet. With their decades of experience operating our single-aisle and widebody jets, we appreciate Ethiopian Airlines' confidence in our products and the strength of our relationship after more than 75 years of collaboration," said Brad McMullen, Boeing senior vice president of Commercial Sales and Marketing.

With the deal, Ethiopian airlines will be able to lead the aviation industry in terms of quality services and a number of destinations. And, the management and the whole crew of the company deserve praise for the continued success. Give credit where credit is due!



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The Ethiopian Herald

Opinion

Regular migration is an opportunity for trade and regional integration under the AfCFTA

BY STAFF REPORTER

Both the lifting of travel restrictions and regional integration are becoming topical issues in the social and economic affairs of Africa. The two issues are difficult to separate. As they go along each other, support one another.

Africa is a vast continent that also enjoys a huge number of population as well as natural resources. The appropriate harnessing of these natural resources and work force can be an engine of development both for the continent and the rest of the world, too.

But the continent is at this moment known for generating a large number of migrants to the other continents. This is due to, among other reasons, the lack of synergy between the countries who could have alleviated the problem by balancing the scarcity and surplus. For this to be a reality there should be an environment that allows people of the continent to look for opportunities and potentials with in the same continent.

The free movement of people across borders is an opportunity to boost intra-African trade and regional integration, a review of a regional migration pact has revealed.

A side event organized by the Economic Commission for Africa, the African Union Commission and the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) on the 8th PAN AFRICAN FORUM ON MIGRATION (PAFoM) conference heard that how regular migration could help boost intra African trade and promote regional integration.

The meeting with the theme "Bolstering Free Movement and Trade Nexus in AfCFTA: Optimizing Benefits of Migration, Labour Migration for Development", brought together key stakeholders, Global Pact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) Champion Countries and Youth Representatives in Africa.

The meeting noted that the implementation of the GCM will contribute toward promoting free movement and labour mobility, which in turn would lead to sustained, inclusive economic growth and productive employment for all. It will also contribute to the achievement of SDGs on reducing inequality and eradicating extreme poverty.

Stakeholders were briefed on the second Africa Regional Review on the implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration (GCM) which will take place in October 2024.

The GCM regional review is a member-state-led process with multiple formats and consistent approaches within and between regions. Prior to the continental review meeting a series of multi-stakeholder consultations and engagement will be organized by UNECA, together with partners AUC and IOM. The upcoming GCM review in Africa will focus on subregional GCM implementation initiatives and highlight activities and strategies at ReCs and RCP levels.

Opening the meeting, Director, IOM Special Liaison Office to the African Union Commission and Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), Mariama Cisse, reiterated that mobility and migration contribute to the prosperity, stability, and development of member States.

Ms. Cisse underlined that it is extremely critical to keep women and youth at the centre in policy decisions and programming as those are mostly impacted by migration. Considering this, leveraging these opportunities calls for a deliberate, strategic, collaborative, and coordinated approach of all stakeholders.

ECA Population Affairs Officer in the Social Policy Section, Gideon Rutaremwa, in a presentation, noted that regional integration, economic growth, increasing education, infrastructure expansions and urbanization will increase the capabilities and aspirations of young Africans to move to increase opportunities for themselves and their families. He said such migration will enable the youth to acquire education, skills and jobs, while others will move to join family, flee conflict or oppression.

Mr. Rutaremwa underlined that migration should be seen as an intrinsic and inevitable part of development rather than being continuously treated as a 'problem to be solved'.

"In view of the inevitability of a future increase of African migration, more African governments are embracing migration as an opportunity for development and regional integration, including trade integration," Mr. Rutaremwa said, highlighting the need to move beyond the fear-driven crisis narratives that ignore the more complex migration realities.

Member States must face the realities of African migration and acknowledge the considerable development potential of migration without being blind to its potential downsides, said Mr. Rutaremwa.

Source: UNECA

Editor's Note: The views entertained in this article do not necessarily reflect the stance of The Ethiopian Herald

Business & Economy

Capitalizing on the 'white gold' - Sesame

BY MENGESHA AMARE

Agriculture has long been the mainstay of Ethiopia's economy and the sector has employed the vast majority of the working population. It is also an important pillar of the economy.

Of the assortment of crops Ethiopia has been producing on both highlands and lowlands, Sesame—the white gold crop—comes at the forefront. Sesame is an important crop produced in Ethiopia for oilseed production. The crop grows in different regions across the different agro-ecologies in Ethiopia.

Keeping this in mind, *The Ethiopian Herald* had a stay with Solomon Deksis, an agro economist graduated from Jimma University and working an agricultural consultancy, to have a piece of information about Sesame. He said, "Sesame seed is one of the most frequently grown oilseed crops in Ethiopia, and the majority of production occurs in the country's northern and northwestern regions, which border Sudan and Eritrea."

As to Solomon, sesame, the white gold crop, is the second most exported crop in the world after coffee at a global export. Sesame output in Ethiopia is expanding as a consequence of the commodity's importance in the lives of sesame-growing farmers as well as an increase in demand and price, he added.

Solomon said, "Agricultural productivity remains low due to limited private investment, fragmented markets, environmental degradation, and recurrent shocks. The low productivity of Ethiopian agriculture, however, could hardly ensure food security for the rapidly growing population and is unable to provide an impetus for the necessary economic transformation. These challenges are exacerbated by conflict and the worst drought in recorded history, to support access to healthy diets for its rapidly growing and urbanizing population or to stimulate broad-based economic transformation."

Sesame grows in Amhara, Tigray, Oromia, Benishangul-Gumuz, Southern, and Gambela states of Ethiopia, but productivity of sesame is very low due to several reasons. Besides, traditional production technology, weeds, insect pests and diseases, climate change impacts, domestic and global market fluctuations and low research and expert knowledge and skill, are among the major challenges for sesame production in Ethiopia, Solomon stated.

As to him, the national productivity of sesame necessitates improving the production techniques, productivity, and developing varieties with higher productivity potential, wider adaptability, application of improved crop protection techniques, and capacity building for experts on agronomic practices will have vital role in providing modern sesame production systems in Ethiopia.

Sesame production in different areas in Ethiopia is carried out by different land holdings. Big investors holding in hundreds of hectares, whereas, small scale farmers own even less than ten hectares of land, where in some areas with pieces of land on different locations, which incur extra production cost, and uneven crop management, he said.

According to Solomon, small scale farming accompanied with retrograde production



The white gold is highly produced in Ethiopia

system led sesame production and productivity very poor. The production is concentrated in Southwestern and northwestern parts of Ethiopia. Sesame production in most areas is carried out under traditional production systems which results in low production and productivity.

Therefore, to increase yield potential and quality of sesame crop and achieve better profit necessitates improving production techniques, application of improved crop protection techniques, development of high yielding widely adapted cultivars with better resistance to pests, development of improved agronomic and management practices and capacity building for experts on sesame crop improvement and post-harvest handling, across the sesame growing areas would play a vital role in providing modern sesame production systems in Ethiopia.

Solomon further elucidated that sesame is one of the oldest oilseed crops cultivated in tropical and subtropical regions of Asia, Africa and South America and thought to have originated in Africa. Ethiopia ranks among the top six world producers of sesame and linseed. The Ethiopian government has indicated that the oil seeds such as sesame, Niger and Safflower seeds as high priority export crops and ranks the second biggest export earner.

Thus, production growth and quality improvement of oilseeds can substantially contribute to the economic development at national, regional and at family level.

Sesame is the third most important oil crop in Ethiopia and occurs both as cultivated and wild. In Ethiopia, it shows a high phenotypic diversity for number of days to maturity, plant height, pod shape and size, and for seed size and color.

Though Ethiopia is among the top sesame producers in the world, the potential benefit that could be obtained is below the optimum due to various factors like the aforesaid ones and the traditional methods to run the business, Solomon opined.

As learnt from Solomon, sesame grows on a wide range of soils. True, loose, moderately fertile, sandy as well as defined alluvial soils have been very suitable for the production of sesame, and it is quite resistant to moisture stress. Due to its tap roots, the plant is highly resistant to drought and can provide good harvests even when only stored soil water is available.

"Therefore, the oil is broadly exploited in paints, cosmetics, soap manufacturing, perfumes, pharmaceuticals, insecticides, and cooking and bakery products. Sesame oil also contains significant amount of important carbohydrates, fibers and some minerals such as potassium, phosphorus, magnesium, calcium and sodium," he added.

Sesame seeds are not only used for culinary purposes but also in traditional medicines for their nutritive, preventive and curative properties. The cake produced after the extraction of oil from un-hulled seeds is an excellent protein feed for poultry and ruminants. The oilseed sector in Ethiopia is one of the fastest growing sectors in the country, said Solomon.

The major sesame seed producing regions are situated in the North West and South West Ethiopian in Humera, North Gondar and Wellega. However, a small amount of sesame is currently produced in the Southern, Tigray and Oromia regions. Somali Regional State has also played good role in sesame production and is suitable for sesame production, too.

"Sesame has high agronomic importance as it has the ability to adapt to harsh environments. Hence, in many sesame growing regions the crop is indispensable not only for its economic importance but also for its suitability in such harsh areas. Therefore, developing improved sesame production technology is required to increase yields and establish stability in different growing areas. More productive sesame cultivars that have been adapted by breeding are expected to be the major strategy for increasing yield and establishing stability in Ethiopia," he added.

The use of improved technologies in general is of paramount importance in solving the prevailing challenges thereby improving production potential as well as quality of sesame.

More productive sesame cultivars that have been adapted by breeding are expected to be the major strategy for increasing yield and establishing stability in Ethiopia, Solomon said.

Development of high yielding potential variety with improved quality traits could be made possible through application of modern breeding techniques, development of improved agronomic and management practices as well the implementation of improved inputs.

He said, "Sesame is indeed a highly adaptable crop that may be used for anything from subsistence to commercial output. Millions of growers and other market participants are employed throughout the oilseed value chain. Reduced sesame productivity, pests and diseases, and limited access to modern technologies are all severe supply-side constraints."

According to Solomon, if the government, companies, investors, farmers, dealers and other stakeholders could hardly address the aforesaid hurdles strategically, the country may soon lose its competitiveness in the global sesame seed market.

In sum, sesame, the world's oldest oil crop, has adapted to the tropics and subtropics all across the globe. Ethiopians have produced the crop for both oil and seed for millennia. Sesame oil is high-quality food oil with a distinct flavor and odor, and it is abundant in free fatty acids, and stearic acid containing trace levels of linoleic acid. It is definitely a multipurpose crop that grows both cultivated and wild in Ethiopia, with great variation in cultivated sesame.

Because of the growing awareness of sesame's nutritional and health advantages, the consumption of sesame seeds and oil has been steadily rising. In Ethiopia, sesame is mainly produced for household food and as a source of cash, as to him. It is predominantly grown by smallholders and medium-to-large commercial farmers under rain-fed conditions.

Sesame production is primarily localized in the lowland areas of the country, where drought and heat stresses are common episodes. The productivity of sesame is low and stagnant in Ethiopia and other major sesame growing regions in sub-Saharan Africa because of many production constraints. The low yield of sesame is attributable to a lack of high-yielding and well-adapted varieties, the prevalence of biotic and abiotic stresses and a lack of modern production technologies such as optimal agronomic managing practices.

Art & Culture

Japan Day Festival



BY NAOL GIRMA

As part of the cultural projects in cooperation with Addis Ababa University and the JICA Ethiopia Office, the Japan Day Festival was held at Addis Ababa University on November 11, 2023. The festival was being organized to commemorate the 93rd anniversary of the commencement of diplomatic ties between Japan and Ethiopia, and to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the dispatching of Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) and the 30th Anniversary of the full-scale operations of the JICA Ethiopia Office. The Embassy of Japan, together with Addis Ababa University (AAU) and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), organized the Japan Day Festival in Ras Mekonnen Hall of AAU (the same building as the Ethnological Museum on the Main Campus) on November 11, 2023. The festival introduced the public and friends of Japan residing in Addis Ababa and its environs to Japanese culture.

In the opening ceremony of the Japan Day Festival at AAU, Ambassador Ito said: “We used to have the Japan Day Festival in Addis Ababa and Mekelle once a year before the pandemic and the conflicts. It has been a while since the last festivals took place. We are absolutely delighted to finally be back to host a cultural event like this in Addis Ababa”. Worknesh Birru, State Minister of Culture and Sports, on her part underlined the age-old multifaceted relations between Ethiopian and Japan, adding that Japan has been supporting Ethiopia’s development endeavors.

The opening ceremony on November 11 presented a mesmerizing blending of Japanese music with Ethiopian music by the Moseb Cultural Music Group led by HaddinQo, the famous Ethiopian

The festival introduced the public and friends of Japan residing in Addis Ababa and its environs to Japanese culture

Masingo player. The Japanese community also performed a traditional Japanese dance, which many students and guests joined, while Ethiopian Judo masters and children demonstrated Judo, a Japanese martial art. Booths demonstrating a Japanese tea ceremony and an Ethiopian coffee ceremony showcased cultural similarities between the two countries.

Furthermore, the Japanese Film Festival was held on November 9 at the Alliance Ethio Francais in Addis Ababa. In addition, another Japanese film screening took place on November 9 and 10 at the Alliance Ethio Francais Addis, and three films were screened at AAU on November 11 as part of the Japan Day Festival. The genres of the films were diverse, including Science Fiction, family drama, comedy, and rom-coms.

The event was also to have a belated celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the dispatching of Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) last year and the celebration of the 30th Anniversary of the full-scale establishment of the JICA Ethiopia Office this year.

Moreover, the event also commemorates the diplomatic relations between Japan and Ethiopia that started on 15 November 1930. The two countries’ relationship has been sustained for over 90 years, which I would like to cherish with all of you today. Japan and Ethiopia have had many cultural exchanges up to date. For instance, after Emperor Haile Selassie was mesmerized by the beauty of Japanese gardens during his visit to Japan in 1956, he made his own Japanese Garden and Tea House at his own Palace, by inviting a Japanese architect and utilizing Ethiopian workers and local materials said Japanese Amb. to Ethiopia.

During the event, the Japanese community performed a Japanese “Bon-Odori” (a traditional Japanese dance) and Ethiopian

Judo masters and children gave a “Judo” (Japanese martial arts) demonstration. In addition, the Ethiopian music unit “Moseb Cultural Music Group” performed Ethiopian-Japanese folk music, and Ethiopian dancers performed a participatory Ethiopian dance with other guests. Other activities included stalls with Japanese food and traditional Japanese festival games (origami, kendama, ring toss, chopstick bean grabbing, etc.) and booths for tea and coffee ceremonies, providing an opportunity to compare Japanese and Ethiopian cultures and experience the similarities between them. On the day of the event, roughly 1,000 Ethiopian citizens, students from Addis Ababa University and foreigners came to enjoy the Japanese cultural experience. It is hoped that this event will increase the number of people interested in Japanese culture in the future.

The Japanese Film Festival was also held in Dire Dawa on 26-28 October 2023 as part of the Japan Foundation’s Japanese Film Screening Programme, with the cooperation of Alliance Ethio Francais and Addis Ababa University. In Alliance Ethio Francais Dire Dawa, three Japanese films were screened over three days, providing an opportunity for young people and Ethiopian citizens living in regional cities who do not have many opportunities to experience Japanese films to be exposed to Japanese culture through Japanese films. In Addis Ababa, the film festival was held on 9-10 November at the Alliance Ethio Francais Addis Ababa, with an opening event on the first day, 9 November. Ethiopian citizens, cultural figures, diplomatic missions and others (about 120 visitors in total) came to enjoy the Japanese films. On the 11th, Japanese films were screened at Addis Ababa University as part of the Japan Day Festival, which was held on the same day, attracting a total of about 150 visitors.

Leaping water

BY ALEM KIDANE

Sunlight dances of the leaves
buzzing bees and new beginnings in lovely September
you smile at the world and I can tell it likes you back...
We smile at each other to end each day.
And each day I will be grateful for you.

Waves gently stroke the shore
Waves gently pulled us apart
and I let you go thinking that it was best to hide and cover.
Slowly and gently I let us drown.

I still think I deserved better than someone who vanished
this quickly
But then again, maybe you deserved someone who con-

quered the waves with no fear.

And so today I smile at the shore and thank the world for
the opportunity to have had you in my life.

Let's just see what the morning brings

Science & Technology

AI in Ethiopia's quest to development

BY ESUBALEW GINBAR

Twenty-first-century technological advancements have brought the world to the cusp of a Fourth Industrial Revolution. The revolution is a fusion of advances in artificial intelligence (AI), robotics, the Internet of Things (IoT), Web3, blockchain, 3D printing, genetic engineering, quantum computing, geo-engineering, and other emerging technologies.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is an advanced scientific field that involves the creation of intelligent agents.

These agents can reason, learn, and act independently, making them an essential force behind many modern products and services. In simpler terms, AI is a technology that enables machines to perform tasks that typically require human intelligence, such as understanding natural language, recognizing images, and making decisions based on data.

Technological advancements have undeniably propelled social progress, significantly augmenting productivity and fostering inclusive economic growth. As we approach the brink of a new technological era, different countries are at varying levels of readiness to harness the benefits of this transformative shift. The field of Artificial Intelligence (AI) is rapidly evolving and has the potential to revolutionize many economic sectors.

Among other things, AI technology has the potential to revolutionize agriculture by providing precise data-driven insights for irrigation, fertilization, and pest control. This can increase crop yields, productivity, and more efficient water and energy usage. Moreover, AI promotes the reduction of harmful chemicals and enables real-time crop monitoring, which can help address food security challenges.

The healthcare sector can significantly benefit from AI's capabilities. For instance, AI can analyze medical images more accurately than human radiologists, leading to earlier detection and diagnosis of diseases. This can improve health services and reduce the risk of unnecessary treatments. AI is also a disruptive technology that is transforming the healthcare industry. With the ability to analyze patient data, including medical history, genetic information, and lifestyle factors, AI can create personalized treatment plans that offer unparalleled precision and efficacy.

Furthermore, AI accelerates drug discovery and development by identifying potential drug candidates, predicting their effectiveness and safety, and optimizing clinical trials to reduce time and cost. Additionally, AI-powered robotic surgery systems provide surgeons greater precision, skill, and control during procedures, resulting in better patient outcomes. In short, AI is revolutionizing the healthcare industry, and we expect to see more innovative solutions leveraging this technology.

AI is revolutionizing the manufacturing



industries, providing many benefits and opportunities. AI rapidly transforms the manufacturing sector by optimizing production processes, automating repetitive tasks, enabling predictive maintenance, streamlining supply chains, and personalizing product recommendations. In finance, AI is utilized for fraud detection, risk assessment, algorithmic trading, customer service automation, and personalized financial management. As AI technologies advance, their transformative impact on the industry is expected to increase.

Artificial intelligence has the potential to significantly contribute towards enhancing peace and security within a nation. With its capability to analyze massive amounts of data, recognize patterns, and make predictions, AI can be implemented in various areas, including conflict prevention, threat detection, and peacekeeping operations.

Although AI has the potential to tackle crucial issues in developing countries, the integration of AI across various sectors presents both challenges and risks. For instance, in agriculture, limited access to technology and infrastructure poses a challenge in implementing AI-driven solutions, hindering the adoption of precision farming techniques and reducing the potential for increased crop yields.

Healthcare sectors face data availability and quality challenges, essential for training AI models; this limitation impacts the accuracy of diagnostic tools and healthcare delivery. In education, the challenge lies in access to technology and digital literacy, limiting the effectiveness of AI-powered learning tools.

The financial sector is also vulnerable to cybersecurity threats, as attackers seek to exploit vulnerabilities in AI systems to manipulate financial data, disrupt operations, or gain unauthorized access to sensitive information. Moreover, the widespread adoption of AI in financial markets could introduce new systemic risks, such as amplified market fluctuations and potential instability due to AI-driven trading algorithms. Additionally, the need for more skilled professionals in AI development and maintenance across all

sectors poses a significant hurdle, limiting the full potential of AI in developing countries.

Furthermore, the lack of regulatory frameworks heightens the risk of data privacy breaches and misuse of AI-driven systems, potentially compromising sensitive information in healthcare and financial and security services.

Despite the challenges and potential risks associated with integrating AI across various sectors, developing countries should strive to build their AI capabilities. The transformative potential of AI to revolutionize industry, healthcare, agriculture, finance, and security cannot be ignored. AI has the potential to drive economic growth, enhance social welfare, and contribute towards sustainable development. Countries that develop AI capabilities will be better equipped to harness the benefits of the Fourth Industrial Revolution, gain a competitive edge, and address pressing societal challenges. However, it is crucial to balance the potential benefits of AI with the need to mitigate risks and ensure that AI is developed and implemented ethically, transparently, and accountable. Ethiopia has made noteworthy progress in developing infrastructure and talent to support the growth of AI initiatives and applications.

Ethiopia is one of the few African countries investing heavily in AI. It has established a \$ 250-million tech park in Addis Ababa to promote the development of emerging technologies and AI applications in various sectors, including healthcare, education, agriculture, and finance.

iCogLabs, a private Ethiopian AI company, with a mission to create software that foresees all the brain activities and a host of practical applications for clients worldwide, including humanoid robots for Hanson Robotics, makers of the renowned Robot Einstein. The well-known humanoid robot Sophia, whose operating system was primarily developed by iCogLabs, was one of the preliminary success stories of the lab. This demonstrates Ethiopian youth's growing AI capabilities and potential to contribute to the global AI landscape significantly. The development of Sophia and the success of other AI projects in

Ethiopia are helping inspire and empower Ethiopian youth to pursue their dreams in AI.

In 2020, Ethiopian Prime Minister H.E. Abiy Ahmed (Ph.D.) established the first-ever Artificial Intelligence Institute, which is mandated to provide innovative research-based AI services in vital areas, mainly focusing on youth incubation and development. Ethiopia's advent to AI is also bringing Africa together. In 2022, Ethiopia hosted the first Pan-African Conference on Artificial Intelligence at the Science Museum in Addis, showcasing the country's dedication to fostering AI development and collaboration across the continent.

Ethiopia has demonstrated a solid commitment to artificial intelligence through several initiatives, underscoring its commitment to investing in AI research and development. These initiatives, coupled with an enabling policy environment, a growing tech-savvy population, and a robust economy, position Ethiopia as a frontrunner in AI development within Africa in the coming decade.

Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed's recent visit to the AI Institute only hours after his arrival from a working visit abroad demonstrates his government's commitment and priority to the development of AI in Ethiopia. In his remark, the Prime Minister lauds:

"Today, I . . . watched the young people who are responsible for the future of the country after two months of training on the nature and importance of artificial intelligence technology. It is promising that our children have acquired the key knowledge to solve Ethiopia's problems with the help of structural awareness. I have full confidence that they can ensure the development of our country."

Ethiopia's journey to develop artificial intelligence (AI) holds great promise for its future. Ethiopia can become a regional leader in AI development and implementation. With its promising youth, committed government, and partnerships, Ethiopia's journey to develop AI can unlock new opportunities for inclusive and sustainable growth, benefiting the country and the wider region.

In this regard, international collaboration is crucial to support AI development in Ethiopia. As AI is a rapidly evolving field, it is essential to have access to the latest research, technologies, and expertise. Collaborating with international partners can help Ethiopia accelerate AI adoption and development, overcome technical and infrastructural challenges, and ensure that AI is used ethically and responsibly. Furthermore, international collaboration can help build a global network of AI researchers and practitioners, enabling knowledge sharing, capacity building, and innovation. By working together, Ethiopia and its international partners can leverage AI's full potential to address critical challenges and improve people's lives.

Esubalew Ginbar has an interest in AI. The author consulted AI tool, Perplexity AI to factcheck this article.

Society

Capitalizing on a unifying narrative for commonweal

BY MENGISTEAB TESHOME

The House of Peoples' Representatives (HPR) held its 4th regular meeting of the 6th year and 3rd tenure last Tuesday, November 14, 2023 in the presence of Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD).

Prime Minister Abiy responded to the queries put to him by members of the parliament (MPs) regarding the 2023/2024 work plan of the federal government that was presented by President Sahlework Zewde during the joint opening session of HPR and House of Federation last October.

The Premier gave explanations regarding the current national issue of the country. Ethiopia's quest for port, nation's economic and political progress, peace and security issues, the rising cost of living and corruption, strengthening democratic institutions, curbing extreme nationalism were among the matters addressed by the PM.

While responding to the peace and security challenges that the country is now, Prime Minister Abiy said that every challenge that we are raising as a problem is not a thing that is created just at present. Rather, it is interrelated with the past experiences of the country and handed down from the past old days. "We should understand this bold truth and if we cannot understand and try to identify the issues from the root causes, it will be difficult to find lasting solutions."

According to him, to overcome the problem, we should stand in unison and work on issues that unify us. If we can discuss, understand the problems and manage our differences effectively, our paths lead us to resolve our problems.

Even though there are several problems in Ethiopia, the main problems are the prevailing of divisive and destructive narratives in the country. "One-dimensional, distorted narrative and destructive story will not build a country," the Prime Minister stressed.

Abiy firmly believed that these narratives are destructive and harmful to the unity and overall development of the nation. Instead he advocated for the promotion of grand and unifying narratives that bring people of different cultures and views together, fostering a sense of cohesion and collective purpose. By promoting a narrative that aborts divisions, he believed that the country can overcome its challenges and thrive as a united and harmonious society. "We have a number of social narratives that can keep us together. Thus, we should capitalize on developing them. It is time for unifying narratives."

Despite the divisive narrative, the current problems faced by the country can also be attributed to the prevalence of intrigue systems and emotional sentiments among the people. Sentiments overpowered by



emotions will not bring about the desired outcomes. Thus, it is necessary to accept and respect the ideas of others to live peacefully with others, instead of driven by emotions and conspiracy, he added.

Ethiopia is a multinational country where different types of cultures, religions, languages, ideologies are reflected. We also have distinct social, historic and political values that bind us together and make us exemplary for others. Entertaining these potentials in a fair manner and passing down to the next generation is necessary to coexist peacefully and prosper Ethiopia, as to him.

He also urged citizens to focus on merging ideas to influence the distorted narratives. It is essential to construct a narrative that fosters peace, progress and the betterment of humanity as a whole.

In order to realize the aspiration of the nation, every citizen is expected and required to back this collective exertion by promoting tolerance, inclusivity and a spirit of compromise. This is the right way that Ethiopia could defeat the ill will of its enemies and go on board on a route of sustained growth, development and shared prosperity.

According to the Prime Minister, constructing a nation necessitates more than just a simplistic narrative. The significance of collaborations and working towards a shared goal, where individuals actively engaged in empathic listening and mutual respect is the call of the day.

The distorted narratives are toxic that damage our unity and coexistence, and nation building process. Owing to this, everyone should distance themselves from advocating for the distorted

narrative.

He further noted that through accepting and embracing diverse perspectives, Ethiopia can foster unity and create a harmonious society. The Prime Minister underlined that a strong foundation can only be established by valuing and appreciating each other's opinion and ensuring collective efforts of all citizens bring about meaningful and lasting change.

Through this inclusive approach, Ethiopia can effectively tackle challenges and build a prosperous future for all its inhabitants.

Ethiopia has a number of rich and reputable historical landmarks as well as social phenomena that we should use as a capital to strengthen further the social cohesion and establish independent institutions.

The government is committed to culminating the old distorted narratives and turning to grand unifying narratives that could unite all Ethiopians. A shared national identity, a sense of 'we' that encompasses all citizens regardless of any background is critical to the creation and perpetuity of a nation state.

According to Abiy, if we remain united, we can make it true as many leaders throughout history have enacted policies to promote a national identity with the goal of building an 'imagined political community' in which citizens remain connected by shared history and values.

He called on all stakeholders to come to the middle ground in ideology, for the sake of the coming generations. He further said that polarized approaches could not help to ensure stability and security.

"Our narratives should be human centered, because human center narratives are more important in unifying peoples and ensure peace and prosperity of Ethiopians. Let us work together to design meaningful solutions, as well as produce change rather than engaging in conspiracy activities in the backyard. This is an ideal time for Ethiopia to exploit the opportunity," the Premier stressed.

While talking regarding the ongoing activities of the Ethiopia National Dialogue Commission (ENDC), he said the Commission is structured to address the concerns of citizens and pave the way for peaceful nation building that accommodates everyone. "If we work on it committedly, it could help undo the backdrop of the past historical and cultural flaws."

The government is highly committed to work with the ENDC because it is instrumental in undoing the distorted narratives.

He also urged citizens to participate in making the national dialogue productive.

Ethiopia can effectively tackle challenges and build a prosperous future for all its inhabitants



Kenyan debt has increased to 10.6 Sh

Data from the National Treasury shows that the country's debt stock grew from 1.8 trillion Sh to 10.6 trillion Sh as of the end of September 30, 2023.

This is up from a debt stock of 8.76 trillion Sh as of the end of September last year.

"The gross public debt comprised of 53.5% external debt and 46.5% domestic debt. The increase in the public debt is attributed to external loan disbursements; exchange rate fluctuations; and uptake of domestic debt during the period. The net public debt was 10,173 billion KSh by end of the period under review," Treasury Q1 Quarterly Economic and Budgetary Review for the period ending September 30, 2023.

External public debt went up by 1.97 billion USD from 36.6 billion USD to 38.3 billion USD during the period.

Debt to multilateral lenders comprised 49.9%, commercial banks (26.2%), bilateral sources (23.7%), and suppliers (0.3%).

"The increase is attributed to increase in external loans disbursements and exchange rate fluctuations during the period," it said.

Loans taken locally increased by 587.5 billion Sh, from 4.43 trillion Sh to 5.01 trillion Sh.

"By the end of September 2023, the total cumulative debt service payments to external creditors amounted to 152.1 billion KSh," it stated.

"This comprised of 89.4 billion KSh (58.8%) principal and 62.7 KSh billion (41.2%) interest.

Source: Capital FM

Small-scale farmers turn to irrigation to boost yields, income

Small-scale farmers are increasingly embracing irrigation technologies to enhance yields and revenues.

According to Davis & Shirliff, a leading provider of irrigation technology and water solutions, rain-fed agriculture is no longer tenable due to changing weather patterns.

The firm's Technical Director Eng Philip Holi said they have noted an increase in the adoption of affordable and efficient irrigation technologies, such as drip irrigation among smallholder farmers in the country.

He attributes this shift to a growing awareness among farmers of the advantages of irrigation in improving crop yields and ensuring food security.

"Both governments and non-governmental organizations have played a pivotal role in promoting irrigation through subsidies, training, and other support mechanisms, contributing to this positive trend," he said recently at an event to mark World Food Day in Nairobi.

The day is celebrated every year worldwide on October 16 to commemorate the date of the founding of the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in 1945.

Holi stressed the importance of increased investment in water harvesting, storage, and distribution infrastructure to ensure a reliable water supply for agricultural activities.

He also highlighted practices like conservation agriculture, agroforestry, and the use of drought-tolerant crop varieties as significant contributors to achieving food security.

"Enhancing the capacity of farmers through training and providing access to resources is crucial to equipping them with modern agricultural and irrigation techniques," said Holi.

Despite these positive developments, Holi cited limited access to water, the cost of irrigation infrastructure, and a lack of knowledge about modern irrigation practices as among the challenges facing many farmers, especially smallholder farmers.

Source: The Standard



Tourism sector cooperation to boost tourists' inflow, elevate ties

BY TEWODROS KASSA

Currently, the tourism sector has become a new chapter of global integration. The sector embraces huge potentials to integrate people across the globe. It immensely contributes to facilitate political, economic, social, and diplomatic relations. Therefore, countries across the world undertake various initiatives to maintain a strong collaboration in the tourism sector.

Recently, various diplomatic community members in Addis Ababa visited the Tourism and Hospitality Exhibition at the premises of Science Museum.

The Tourism Ministry disclosed that more than 3,000 members of the diplomatic community based in Addis Ababa visited the first-of-its-kind Tourism and Hospitality Exhibition at the Science Museum.

Speaking at the closing program of the National Tourism Exhibition and Hospitality, which has been held for about a month, Tourism State Minister Seleshi Girma stated that the exhibition has provided the opportunity to promote Ethiopia's historical and natural tourist attraction sites to the diplomatic community. It has also played a vital role in stimulating the tourism and hospitality sectors.

"It was possible to achieve the desired results in the exhibition and it enabled actors in the tourism and hospitality sectors to render their services under one roof."

The State Minister further noted that about 154,799 local and foreign visitors attended the exhibition during the last 30 days. Also, the fair has been visited more than nine million times through various digital alternatives.

Therefore, the Ministry called on members of the diplomatic community and development partners based in Addis to take tourism as a priority area of engagement for the benefit of the people and economy of Ethiopia.

Development partners and embassies are expected to encourage investment inflow in the tourism and hospitality sectors and inspire more people to come and visit Ethiopia. Owing to Ethiopia's enormous potential in the tourism sector, embassies and development partners need to make the sector a priority area of intervention and support both government and private sectors initiatives in tourism as well as heritage reparations, Silesi said.

"Ethiopia's strategic location, the reputable airlines, its diverse tourism resources and history could attract more tourists across the globe. Nonetheless, service quality



assurance, technology, heritage and wildlife conservation are among the areas where we want to collaborate," the State Minister elaborated.

Moreover, the diplomatic members highlighted that the country has more potential to augment tourists' inflow and generate a tangible income from the sector.

Chinese Embassy Deputy Chief Shen Qinmin told the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) that Ethiopia's unique features and ancient civilization have given the country's tourism industry immense capacity to attract international visitors. "I don't think any African country has as many unique historical and natural attractions as Ethiopia."

Accordingly, if Ethiopia and other East African countries put together their tourism potentials to the rest of the world, they could not only enshrine the flow of global tourists, but also ensure mutual benefit in the industry.

Nonetheless, the diplomat stressed the need to present Ethiopia's tourism attraction sites in a package with other East African countries including Kenya and Tanzania to tap the sector's full potential.

"In tourism, every country has its unique culture, custom and social setting. Ethiopia and China could exchange and learn from each other in this regard. More importantly, both countries have ancient civilizations that date back to more than 3000 years.

There is also a great potential of combining the resources together," he said.

Similarly, he described Addis Ababa as not only the capital of Ethiopia but also of the Horn of Africa and China's gateway to Africa. "We take that advantage not only to take a day city tour but to go to Addis's environs. I believe Addis Ababa and its surroundings have a lot to offer from the tourism perspective. In this industry, you are going to have a brighter future under the current leadership."

The Chinese Ministry of Culture and Tourism also designated Ethiopia as a new destination for Chinese group tourism and the designation is expected to encourage more Chinese tourists to come here.

Many Chinese consider Ethiopia is the other version of China owing to the common culture and ancient history they share. Historians said in this regard that China and the Axum Empire are among the four great powers in the 4th century, he underscored.

"Today we are all embarking on this great renaissance for both Ethiopia and China. That is why you say 'Great Ethiopian Renaissance Dam' because you have a glorious past. In China, we also say 'National Renaissance'; we use the same words to describe our future. Only a few other countries can claim this. And now, we are going to embark on that glory again."

As to him, Ethiopia's tourism industry is on the move and holds a great potential in

the future; expressing his country's support in various areas including job creation and economic promotion.

"Ethiopia is not only a beautiful country but also rich in culture, history and tourism resources as well. Both Ethiopia and China are countries of ancient civilizations where the two people have a lot to share. My embassy is encouraging more Chinese tourists to come here."

Ethiopia has the biggest number of UNESCO-inscribed cultural sites in the Horn of Africa while Asia and China share a great resource of tourism as well. Therefore, the two countries can work and bridge together to let people come to visit each other's sites.

Mentioning the tourism industry's huge contribution to the green development initiative, Qinmin asserted his country's alignment with Ethiopia and its tourism aspirations.

Moroccan Ambassador to Ethiopia Nezha Alaoui M'hammdi expressed optimism about the two countries' ability and keen interest to work together in the tourism sector.

The Ambassador further highlighted that tourism is not only leisure but it is deeply linked with culture and heritages. "Hence, preserving heritages by restitution of cultural goods are very important, in this regard, both countries are keen and sensitive to this topic."